原作 talestune
漫画 三浦 純

収穫の十二月

Harvest December

2

CHAPTER 7: THAT WHICH YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS
YOU TWO WILL BE FIGHTING EACH OTHER.

...MOTHER, PLEASE EXPLAIN.
A FIGHT BRINGS OUT A PERSON'S TRUE NATURE...
IT'S A MUCH FASTER WAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MAN NAMED KONNO MASAKI.
I WILL USE ALL OF THE TOWADAS' POWER TO BREAK APART YOUR RELATIONSHIP.
.....
IF YOU REFUSE,
MOTHER...!

IT SEEMS YOU DO NOT LOVE YUKI.
PLEASE DON'T THINK THAT THIS DOES NOT CONCERN US.
WAI-
WAIT, WAIT!
I DON'T LIKE THIS...
……
ISN'T YOUR MOTIVE, YES?
WANTING TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THIS FAMILY...
MASHIRO-OBA-SAN!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, THIS IS JUST TOO RECKLE-
WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN OBA-SAN?!

I AM VERY SORRY...!!
YOU'RE SO USELESS!!
SHE DOESN'T EXPECT MUCH FROM ME...
CHOOSE WHICHEVER WEAPON YOU LIKE.
...I'M AN AMATEUR.
WINNING OR LOSING ISN'T AN ISSUE HERE.
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH, YES?
.....

MY FEELINGS WON'T CHANGE NO MATTER WHAT MY MOTHER DOES!
..SEEMS LIKE WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO DO IT.
!
MASAKI ...
...
EH...??
...YOU'RE SO NORMAL.

MASAKI-SAN! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?!
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN A YUKI WHO'S LIKE A NORMAL GIRL.
THE YUKI THAT I KNOW
WILL CLEARLY SHOW TO THIS PERSON
...
WHETHER I'M SUITABLE FOR HER, RIGHT?

カラン
...I HAVE BEEN NEGLI-GENT.
I HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT I AM A CHILD OF THE TOWADA FAMILY.
SIMPLY BEING INSISTENT IS NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH.

I WILL DO WHAT I MUST TO HAVE YOU!

チャリ
DID YOU NOT SAY THAT YOU WERE AN AMATEUR?
US AMATEURS HAVE OUR WAY OF DOING THINGS.
TWO SWORDS ...?!

BEGIN.
!
WHOA!

SHE'S FAST...!
..JUST A LITTLE MORE.
カラン
...MASHIRO-SAN?!
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING THEM DO?!
!
たっ

OH MY.
YOU'RE ALSO INTERESTED IN WHAT KIND OF MAN YUKI'S PARTNER IS, YES?
EVEN SO, WHAT-
HELLO, OJI-SAN.
...HELLO, SANAE-CHAN.
500 YEN. WILL YOU BET?
—WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WON'T YOU ATTACK?!
WHY ARE YOU SMILING?!

WHY WON'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?!
SAY SOME-THING!

THIS IS GOOD...

FOR YUKI, THE OPPONENT'S SILENCE IS INTOLERABLE...

AS LONG AS I CAN KEEP EVADING HER, HER SPIRIT WILL BREAK SOON...
A GAP IN HER DEFENSE...
IF YOU WON'T ATTACK, THEN I WILL!!
.....

BUT FOR ME,
I FIND THAT
FASCINATING.

KOUHEI,
HOLD ONTO TO THIS.
...EH...?
...HUH?
WHAT...
ME?

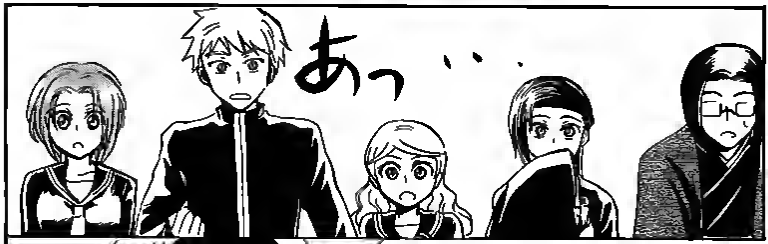
チャリ
...A KEY...?
ぱし
!

!!
MOTH-
ER!!

ぽ
しんっ
OH NO.

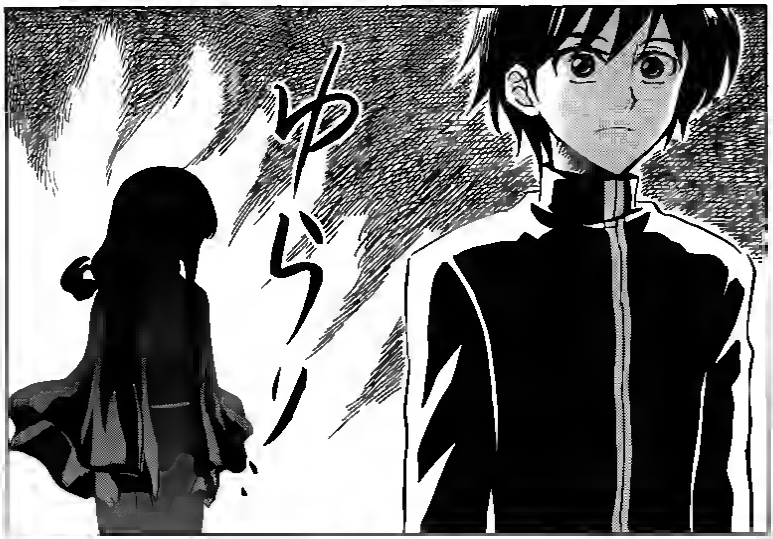
I WIN.

しっかり


あっ…

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MORE COMPLAINTS, RIGHT?

HM?
...MASAKI...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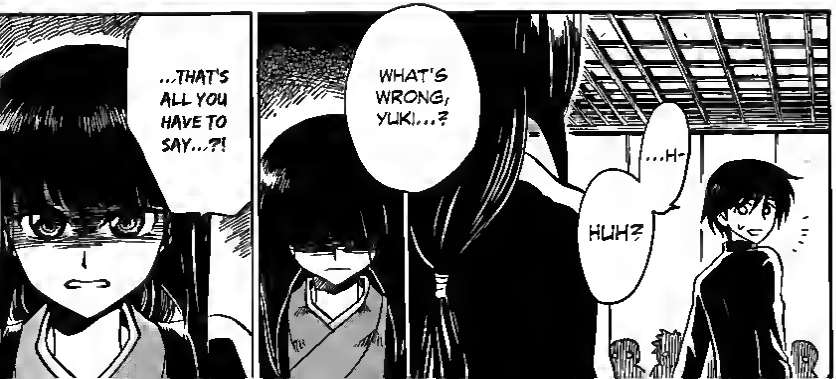
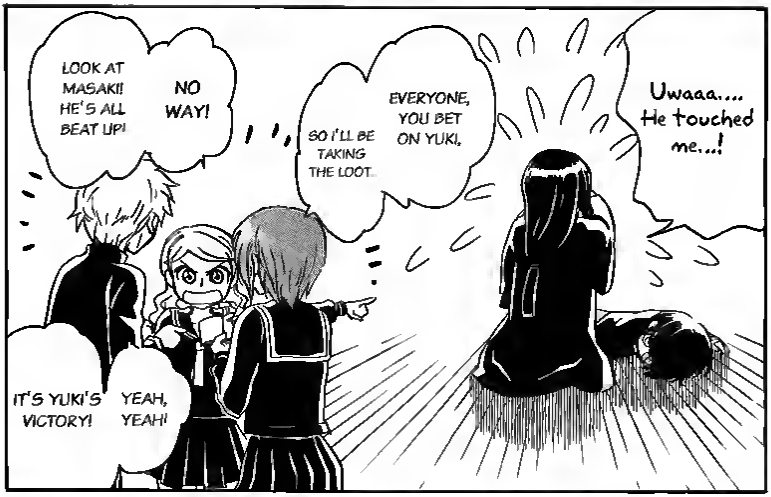

...THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY...?!
WHAT'S WRONG, YUKI...?
...H-
HUH?

EH...?
YOU TOUCHED ME...
IN A PLACE LIKE THAT ...!!
NOT ONLY THAT!
YOU ACT AS IF!
YOU DID NOT!
EVEN NO-TICE!!

...
Ugh...


Uwaaa.... He touched me...!
EVERYONE, YOU BET ON YUKI.
SO I'LL BE TAKING THE LOOT.
LOOK AT MASAKI! HE'S ALL BEAT UP!
NO WAY!
IT'S YUKI'S VICTORY!
YEAH, YEAH!

KONNO MASAKI ..
HE'S QUITE AN INTERESTING MAN.
おろ
おろ

収穫の十二月

Harvest December

YUKI BEAT THE LIVING CRAP OUT OF ME,
AND WHEN I WOKE UP, IT WAS ALREADY NIGHTTIME.
...MY FACE HURTS...
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT MAKING IT HOME TONIGHT.
HEY, MOM, I'M---
YEAH--
MASAKI,
YOU SHOULD CALL HOME AND LET 'EM KNOW

CHAPTER 8 - THE GREAT STEAM STRATEGY

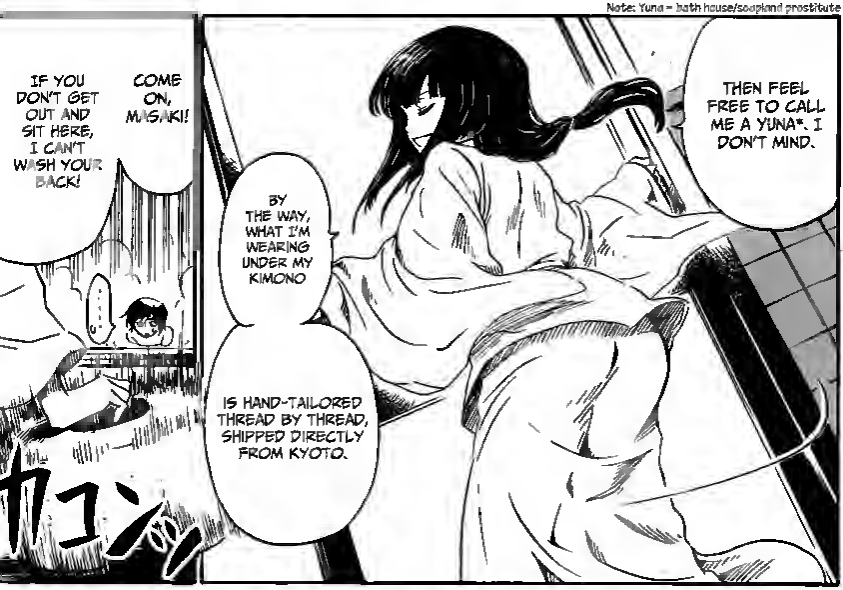
...NO, EVERY-THING'S FINE.
YEAH, I'M AT YUKI'S HOUSE RIGHT NOW
I'LL BE SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE SO...
GET IT ON, BOY!
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD...
I WONDER WHEN I CAN EXPECT MY FIRST GRANDCHILD. HMM?
へなへな
ASH... NOW MY HEAD HURTS...
THE BATH IS THIS WAY.
なっしんびーむ

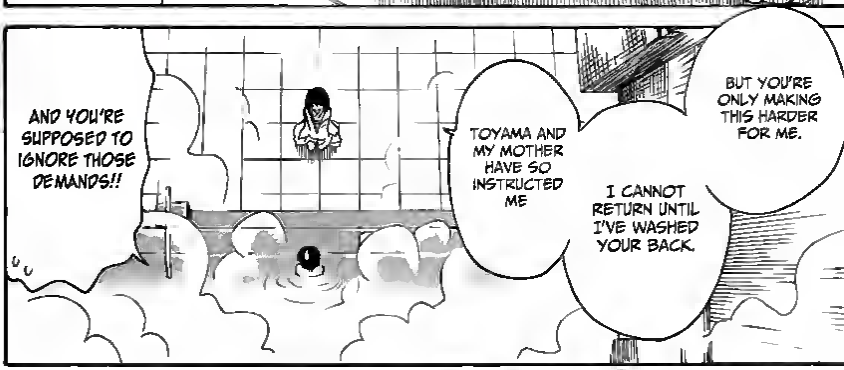
かぽーん
ハァ…
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN SHE TOLD US TO FIGHT, BUT...
PHEW...
チャプ

I HOPE I CAN PUT THIS TO REST TONIGHT...
...UGH, I'M GETTING SLEEPY.
I SHOULD GET OUT AND GO RIGHT TO BED.
ガラッ
Eh?

MASAKI,
I'VE COME TO WASH YOUR BACK.
ゆっ
YUKI-SAMA?!
バシャン!
W-W-W-WHAT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...
カラカラ
I TOLD YOU, TO WASH YOUR BACK.
A SANSUKE, AS THEY SAY.

Note: Yuna = bath house/soapland prostitute


THEN FEEL FREE TO CALL ME A YUNA*. I DON'T MIND.
BY THE WAY, WHAT I'M WEARING UNDER MY KIMONO
IS HAND-TAILORED THREAD BY THREAD, SHIPPED DIRECTLY FROM KYOTO.
COME ON, MASAKI!
IF YOU DON'T GET OUT AND SIT HERE, I CAN'T WASH YOUR BACK!
カコン

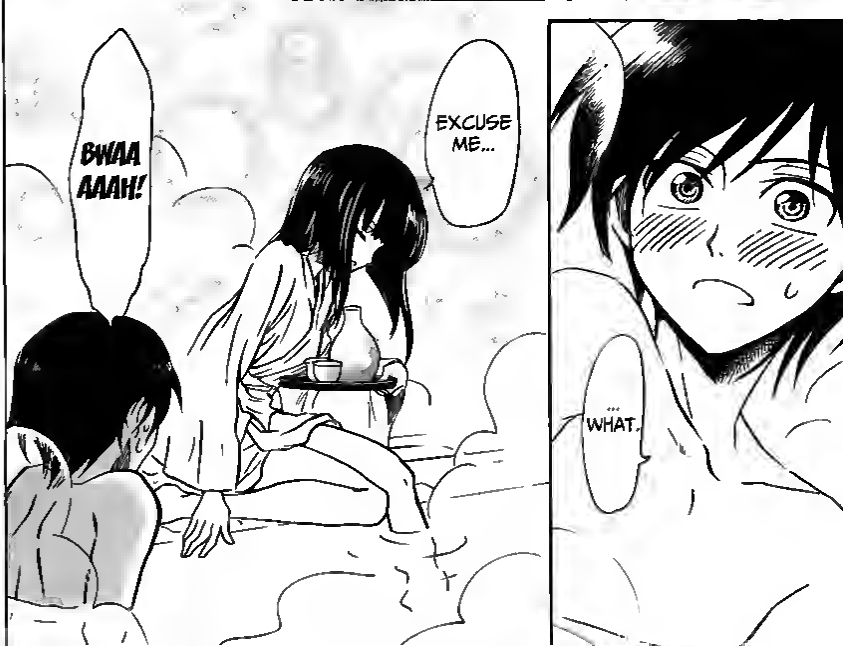

BUT YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THIS HARDER FOR ME.
I CANNOT RETURN UNTIL I'VE WASHED YOUR BACK.
TOYAMA AND MY MOTHER HAVE SO INSTRUCTED ME
AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO IGNORE THOSE DEMANDS!!

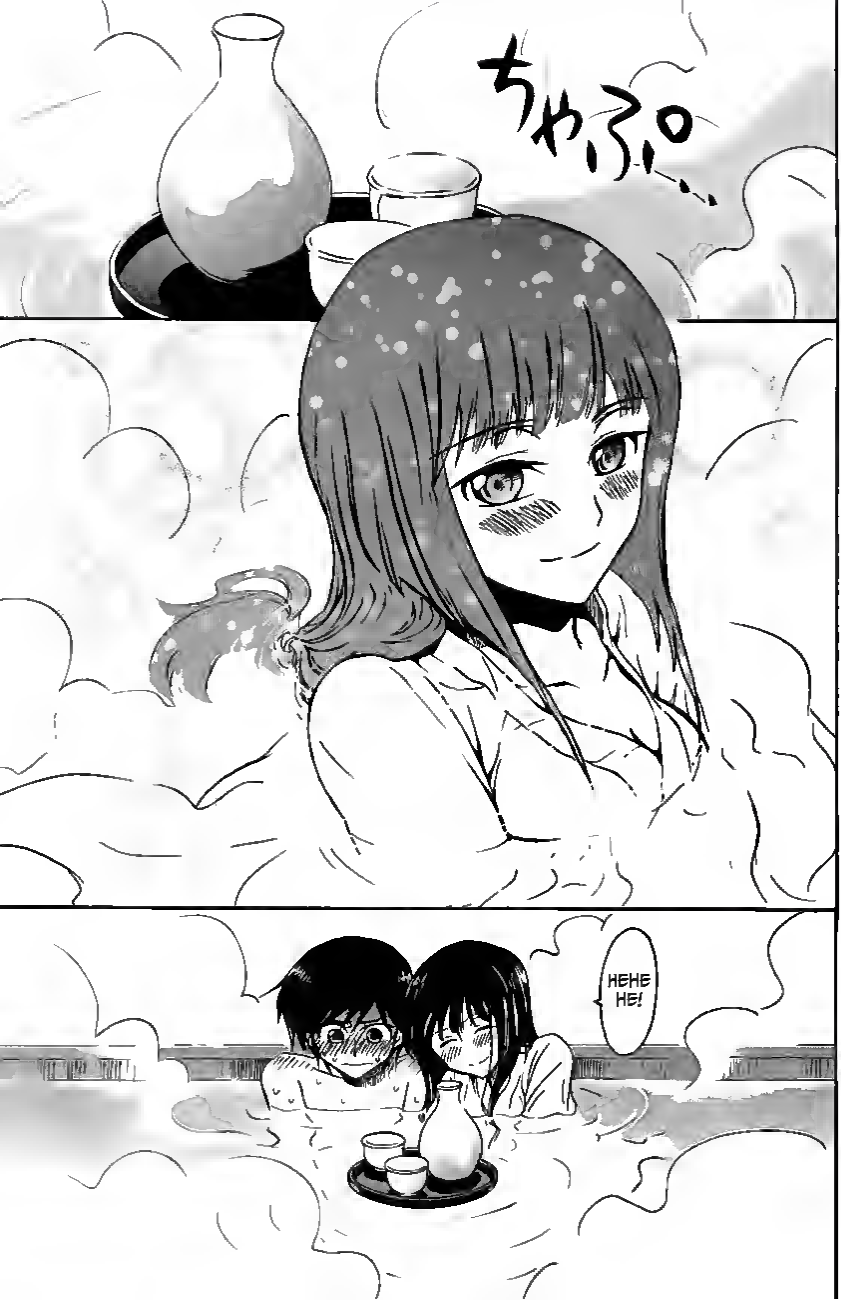
Note: "Mat play" think of an air mattress and some lotion

TOOYAMA TOLD ME THAT IF I DO SOMETHING CALLED "MAT PLAY," EVERYTHING ELSE SHOULD COME NATURALLY,
SO WHAT EXACTLY AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
NOT LISTENING, NOT LISTENING, NOT LISTENING!

AH-CHOO!
I'M STILL NOT GOING BACK YET.
AH-CHOO!
AH-CHOO!
...SO, WHAT, YOU'RE COLD NOW?
WHY NOT GET IN, THEN?
..D'YAGH, WAIT, NEVER MIND!
.....
NEVER MIND! FORGET I SAID ANYTHING!
?
...WAIT FOR ME A MOMENT!

...SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
OH, NOW'S MY CHANCE! WHERE'S A TOWEL?!


BWAA AAAH!
EXCUSE ME...
...WHAT.


ちゃぷ。
HEHE HE!

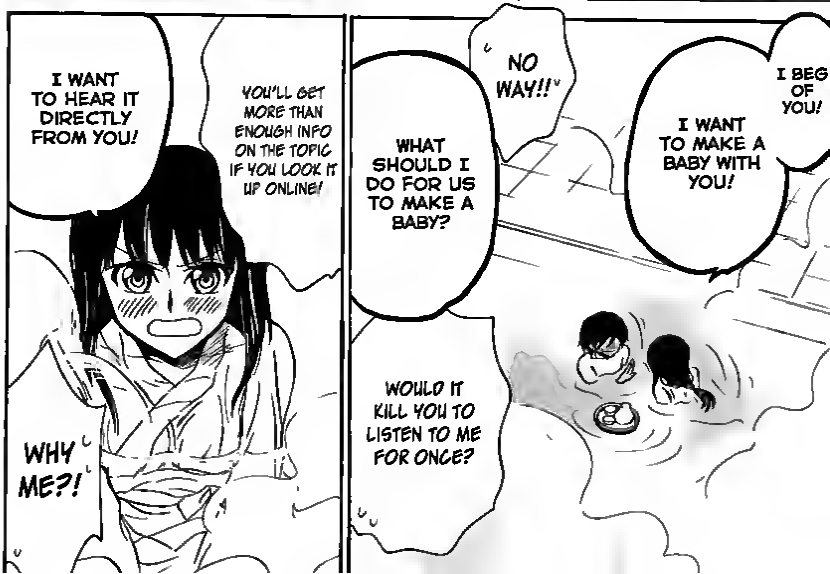
...YUKI... YOU'RE A BIT CLOSE...
AND WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?
I...I'LL MOVE TO THE OTHER END..
I FIND IT RATHER SILLY TO DO THAT IN A BATH LIKE THIS, DON'T YOU?
YEAH, ME TOO...
THEN SIT BACK AND HAVE A DRINK FOR NOW
WAIT...
YUKI, IS THAT...
RELAX, IT'S JUST WATER.
YOU SEEM A LITTLE HIGH-STRUNG AT THE MOMENT.

AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.
...ONE MORE CUP.
GULP
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE LOST TO ANYONE BESIDES MY MOTHER..

I BEAT YOU UNTIL YOUR HEAD WAS SWELLING UP.
...RATHER, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOUR FORGIVE-NESS.
.....
MY MOTHER SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU.
YOU SHOULD BE GLAD.
YEAH...
SO WHY DID YOU AGREE TO BE MY BOYFRIEND?
...MASAKI,
I'M SURE YOU DON'T REALLY LOVE ME.
...BECAUSE I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, YUKI.
...THAT'S YOUR REASON?
WHAT IS IT THAT'S KEEPING YOU ATTACHED TO ME?
PLEASE, TELL ME.

...THEN IT'LL BECOME THAT MUCH EASIER TO BREAK UP, I FIGURE.
THEN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DO UNDERSTAND ME?
YEAH, PROB-ABLY...
...I SEE...
SO TO THAT END...
THAT JUST MEANS I HAVE TO KEEP A FIRM GRIP ON YOU, THEN.

IF A CHILD IS WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP YOU FROM LEAVING,
THEN THAT'S WHAT I WANT!
AAAAAND HERE WE GO AGAIN.
FIGURES YOU'D FIND YOUR WAY BACK TO THAT TOPIC!


I BEG OF YOU!
I WANT TO MAKE A BABY WITH YOU!
NO WAY!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR US TO MAKE A BABY?
WOULD IT KILL YOU TO LISTEN TO ME FOR ONCE?
I WANT TO HEAR IT DIRECTLY FROM YOU!
YOU'LL GET MORE THAN ENOUGH INFO ON THE TOPIC IF YOU LOOK IT UP ONLINE!
WHY ME?!

...B-
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I WANT TO SEE MY INDECENT SIDE...
SO EVEN YOU HAVE SOME THINGS YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T DO !!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN ASK ABOUT IT!
..WELL, THERE'S THIS STORK, AND--
DON'T GIVE ME THAT THIS TIME!
THERE'S A CAB--
AND DON'T YOU DARE TELL ME ABOUT CABBAGE PATCH KIDS!
READ ME LIKE A BOOK HUH"

...DAT HAWTS (THAT HURTS)
HWAHT AH YOO DOIG? (WHAT ARE YOU DOING?)
L-LOOK HERE!
I'M NOT TELLING YOU TODAY! GOT IT?!
DAWN YOO LIE DOO WEE, CAWAD*** (DON'T YOU LIE TO ME, COWARD***)
I'M NO COWARD!
RATHER, THIS IS HOW I, MASAKI KONNO, ACT LIKE A GENTLEMAN!

HI HA HA HA HA!
AN INSINCERE MAN LIKE YOU DESERVES PUNISHMENT!
GRAH!
...SANAE TOLD ME...
THAT MEN WHO MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT ARE MORE HONEST WHEN YOU ASK THEIR BODIES INSTEAD!!
DID SHE HAVE TO MAKE HER WORDS SO EASY TO MISUNDERSTAND?!
DO YOU NOT WANT ME AT ALL?!
I HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED ANYTHING ELSE OF YOU!!
DA LAS GUR I WAHNA DAY IS WAHN HOO CAH AHNDASTAHN HOW MENS MAHNS WAHK! (THE LAST GIRL I'D WANNA DATE IS ONE WHO CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW MEN'S MINDS WORK!)
MRAA AAAA AAAA AAAH!
URAA AAAA AAAH!
GAH!

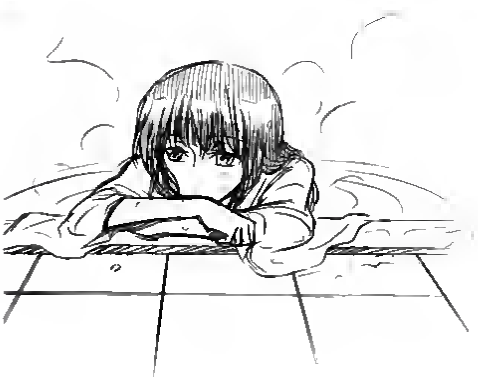
HEY THERE, YOU TWOOOO!!
ばんっ!!
HAVIN' A FUN TIME IN HERE, I HOPE?!
...WHAT THE...?

ひょい
やれやれ
ヒック
THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING...?
WHAT A PURE COUPLE THEY ARE.
TOO BAD, NO FRISKY NIGHT FOR YOU!
DAMN...
DON'T GET DOWN, MASAKI-SAN! DRINK UP!
どばっ
...MIZUHO-SAN, ISN'T THIS COKE...?

..SO I'M THE ONLY NAKED ONE HERE.
GREAT. I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

SIGH...
I BET HE WAS A GIRL IN HIS PREVIOUS LIFE
TO THINK THE MAT PLAY DIDN'T WORK ON HIM...
IGNORE THEM! IGNORE THEM!
MAYBE THAT DREAM I HAD WHERE HIS THINGY GOT SNIPPED OFF CAME TRUE?

WELL, HOWEVER IT HAPPENED...
THIS MEANS I'M SAFE...
HE GOT AWAY AGAIN...



SO HEAV-YYY~~~
DECEMBER 31ST
NEW YEAR'S EVE
7:00 PM
MIZUHO YOUR BAG IS FULL OF NOTHING BUT VEGETABLES, RIGHT?
IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH THE CRABS WRIGGLING AROUND IN HERE, I CAN SWITCH WITH YOU?
VEGGIES ARE A LOT HEAVIER THAN I THOUGHT!
A NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH JUST MY FRIENDS...
BUT I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
WHY DIDN'T YOU BOIL THEM BEFORE WE STARTED?!
I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT I'D BE DOING THIS A YEAR AGO.
CHAPTER 9 - BEFORE THE FESTIVAL

AND HERE WE ARE~
I DIDN'T KNOW THIS PLACE EXISTED HERE...
GOD, I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE OUT THERE!
どんっ
ドサ
ドサ

NO REGARD FOR WHERE WE ARE, HUH...?
WE'RE GONNA PUT SARAN WRAP AROUND THE PLACE TO KEEP OUT THE WIND.
WE NEED ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO TASTE THE KONBU!
ぐつぐつ
MIZUHO, HAVEN'T YOU ADDED TOO MUCH STOCK?
BUT TOOYAMA WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TO GET US THIS HIGH-QUALITY CRAB.
Ahahaha...
船!?
I THOUGHT HE'D LOOKED WORN-OUT FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS...
IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO JUST KILL THE FLAVOR THAT WAY. THAT'S WHAT TOOYAMA LEARNED FROM THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP HE CAUGHT THEM ON.
Text: Ship?!

GIVE ME VANILLA!
I'LL ACCEPT NOTHING ELSE!
GENERALLY, THE CLOSEST THING TO THE "GRACE OF GOD" AROUND HERE IS A DEITY WHO WANDERS THE STREETS AND BUMS HAAGEN-DAZS FROM EVERYONE.
DOES NOBODY DO HATSUMOUDE AROUND HERE?
NAH, WE'RE WAY UP IN THE MOUNTAINS.
Haha...
...TRUE ENOUGH
AH, SO I'M RIGHT.
WHA?!
IT'D BE BAD IF YOU RAN INTO HER NOW, I BET.
WORRIED ABOUT SHIRO-SAMA?
.....

...I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU
SHE PROMISED SHE'D STAY IN TOWN ALL NIGHT IN RETURN!
I GAVE HER 5 CUPS OF HAAGEN-DAZS EARLIER JUST IN CASE.
NOT TO WORRY
OOOH!
I FEEL SO TALL NOW!
ぴょいっ
HERE.
PERSEVERANCE DOESN'T HELP IF YOU CAN'T REACH IN THE FIRST PLACE.
ぴょんっ
ぴょんっ
YOU'VE GAINED SOME WEIGHT ON YOUR MIDRIFF~
DON'T YOU GO TRYING TO GAUGE MY WEIGHT LIKE THAT!

'SUP, MASAKI?
STILL NOT DONE WITH THAT SIDE?
...I THINK YOU'VE ALREADY DONE ENOUGH, KOUHEI.
?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DINNER'S READY!
うまそ〜っ
お〜っ

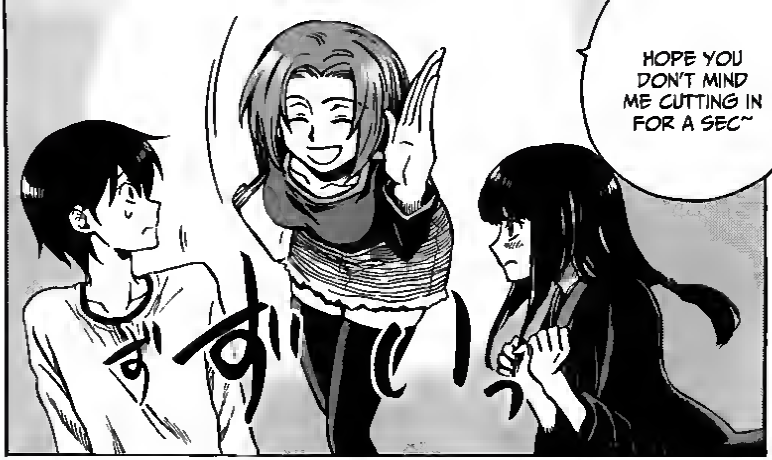
...Okay, so...
Since that hellish closing ceremony is over and done with, all that's left is for us to bid the year farewell...
ずうううん…
BASED ON OUR REPORT CARDS, I DARESAY THE ONLY ONES WHO WENT THROUGH HELL WERE YOU TWO.
THAT LADY IS ONE HELL OF A SIGHT WHEN SHE'S MAD!
AGH, STOOOP!
DON'T REMIND ME OF IT!
A-ANYWAY, TIME FOR A TOAST!
TO MAKING IT THROUGH ANOTHER YEAR IN ONE PIECE!

AND IN CELEBRATION OF MASAKI BECOMING ONE OF US.
CHEERS!
...UH,
THANK YOU...
OH, WHAT'S THIS~~?
COULD YOU BE BLUSHING~~?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT, MASAKI?
I'LL PICK SOME OUT FOR YOU.
BETTER GET EATING THAT CRAB.
HOT HOT!
...FOING THIS STUFF ACTUALLY ISN'T HALF BAD...
HEY?!
THAT'S MY CRAB MISO!!
YEAH.
NOT BAD AT ALL.
...ONE COULD SAY THAT MASAKI SERVES AS A PART OF WHAT COMPOSES ME...
...WHAT?

BUT UNLESS MY MASAKI COMPONENT IS RECHARGED DAILY, IT WON'T SERVE ITS PURPOSE FOR ME.
ねっ ねっ ねっ
BUT UNLESS MY MASAKI COMPONENT IS RECHARGED DAILY, IT WON'T SERVE ITS PURPOSE FOR ME. IN SPITE OF THIS FACT, ONCE THE CLOSING CEREMONY WAS OVER, YOU DIDN'T SHOW YOUR FACE TO ME AT ALL. NOT A SINGLE TIME. NOT. EVEN ONCE!! NOT TO MENTION...DESPITE MY ILL OPINION OF WESTERN WRITING, DESPITE ME TAKING THE LEAP TO OBTAIN A CELL PHONE, YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SO MUCH AS ASKED ME WHAT MY PHONE NUMBER IS. WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN WHY THAT IS?
ねっ ねっ
うぅ...
WHAT WOULD LEAD YOU TO TREAT ME SO COLDLY?!
MY WILL AND MY LOVE SHOULD AT LEAST MAKE THIS POINT CLEAR TO YOU!!
トプ トプッ
YES, YES.
AN- OTHER CUP!!
だっ

...WERE YOU TOO BUSY VISITING TOOYAMA'S HOME EVERY DAY TO BOTHER?
WAS WORKING AT SANAE'S SHOP CONSUMING ALL OF YOUR FREE TIME?
IS SPENDING ALL NIGHT PLAYING GAMES SO MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN I AM~~~~~?
HEY, HOLD ON!
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT I DO?!
MAMI-CHAN'S MOTHER TOLD ME EVERY-THING.
THAT BLABBER-MOUTH ...!
DO YOU REALLY MEAN TO AVOID ME SO? I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DON'T LOVE ME AS I LOVE YOU, BUT IF YOU WON'T LET ME EVEN TRY TO HAVE YOU, I CAN'T GO ON LIVING! DON'T YOU SEE? THIS FRUSTRATION IS BECAUSE MY BODY ITSELF IS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT YOU! THIS IS PHYSIOLOGICAL! WHAT ABOUT YOU?! OH, WAIT. NOW I GET IT. YOU ARE LIKE THIS BECAUSE I AM TOO NAIVE...
ARE YOU EVEN LIS-TENING?!
THIS IS POINT-LESS!
SAVE MEE EEE~


HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME CUTTING IN FOR A SEC~

HERE.
I FIGURED I SHOULD GIVE YOU THIS FIRST...
OPEN IT AFTER THIS.
?
YOU DARE INTERRUPT ME, SANAE?
NOT AT ALL.
I DIDN'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF STOPPING YOUR SPIEL OKAY?

I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IT USEFUL~
WHAT IS IT?
ONII-CHAN, YOU'RE A TOTAL DIRTBAG.
?
OHO, PERHAPS IT'S SOME KIND OF INDECENT BOOK, HMM?!
GOSH, YOU'RE SUCH A PERV, KOUHEI-KUN
..STILL 4 HOURS LEFT IN THE YEAR
LET'S MOVE ON TO MAKING THE SOBA NOW~
WHAT, NOT UDON?
IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE, AFTER ALL~

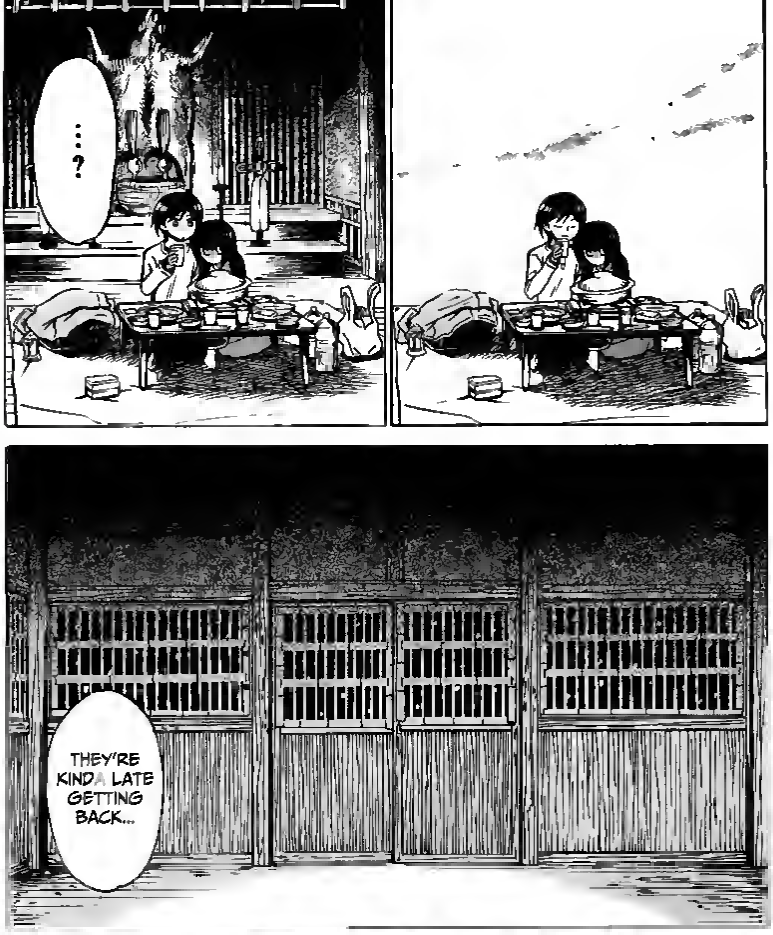
SOON AFTER THIS YEAR ENDS.
WE WILL BECOME SENIORS, EXCEPT FOR MIZUHO.
MMM~
YUMMY!

A YEAR FROM NOW,
WILL WE ALL BE ABLE TO GATHER HERE AGAIN?
...NEXT YEAR?
EITHER WE'LL GO TO COLLEGE,
OR ELSE FIND A JOB SOMEWHERE.
WE SHOULD DO THIS NEXT YEAR.

と・・・
AND I, WITH YUKI...
OR WITH SHIRO...?

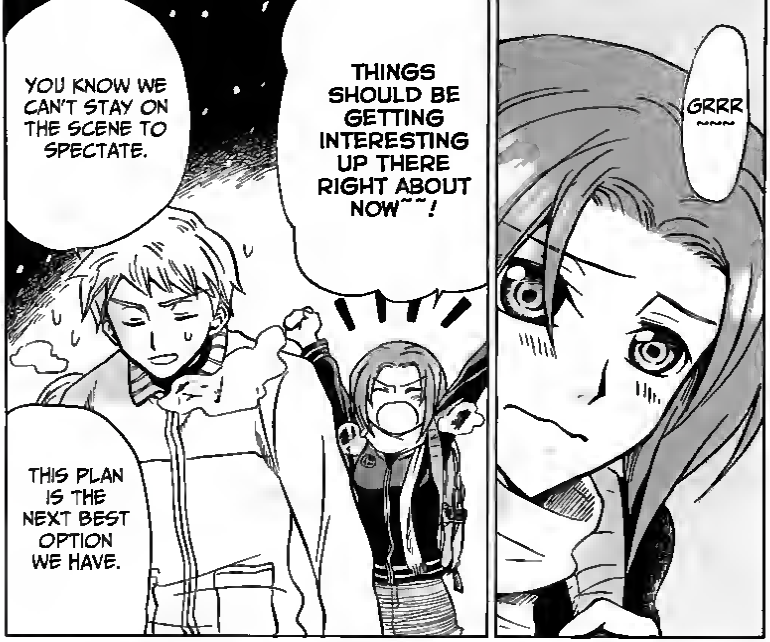
ONII-CHAN!
THE JUICE I PUT OUT TO COOL GOT BURIED IN THE SNOW!
HELP ME DIG IT OUT~
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I'LL GO HELP TOO~
C'MON, HURRY!
IT'S GONNA FREEZE IF WE DON'T!
わいわいっ
ONE YEAR FROM NOW...

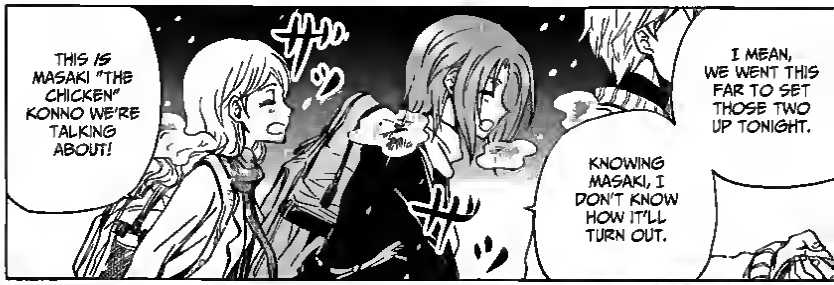
...WE'LL ALL BE HERE AGAIN, EVEN IF THAT MUCH TIME HAS PASSED.


……?
THEY'RE KINDA LATE GETTING BACK...
?

ばっ
…!
カクン
んん…
WHAT…?
WHAT'S WRONG, MASAKI…?
すっ

?
DAMN THEMMMM ...!


YOU KNOW WE CAN'T STAY ON THE SCENE TO SPECTATE.
THINGS SHOULD BE GETTING INTERESTING UP THERE RIGHT ABOUT NOW~~!
GRRR ~~~~
THIS PLAN IS THE NEXT BEST OPTION WE HAVE.


THIS IS MASAKI "THE CHICKEN" KONNO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!
I MEAN, WE WENT THIS FAR TO SET THOSE TWO UP TONIGHT.
KNOWING MASAKI, I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'LL TURN OUT.

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE YEAR'S OVER NOW
LET'S ALL MAKE OUR FIRST SHRINE VISIT WHEN WE GET BACK TO GROUND LEVEL

...
...IT'S KINDA TURNED INTO A SNOW-STORM, HUH...?
...YEAH.
WE SHOULD GET OFF THIS MOUNTAIN ASAP.
ヒュオ
オ
オ

...THIS COULD BE BAD.

収穫の十二月

Harvest December

IF NOTHING HAPPENS, OUR FRIENDSHIP IS OVER. —KOUHEI
KONNO, YOU'RE A BEAST! I BELIEVE IN YOU! —SANAE
EAT THE MEAL SET BEFORE YOU —MIZUHO
I put one of those in your wallet Use it
Though there may be a few holes, too! —Mami
I expect you to make my daughter scream in another way. —Mashiro
…
I'M TRAPPED!!

CHAPTER 10 – HOW TO MAKE A BABY

SANAE AND THE REST WENT BACK QUITE EARLY
WHY DO YOU THINK THEY DID THAT?
WHO KNOWS ...?
I WANT TO RUN AWAY...
SO COLD...

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
……
A BLIZ-ZARD...!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ダダッ!

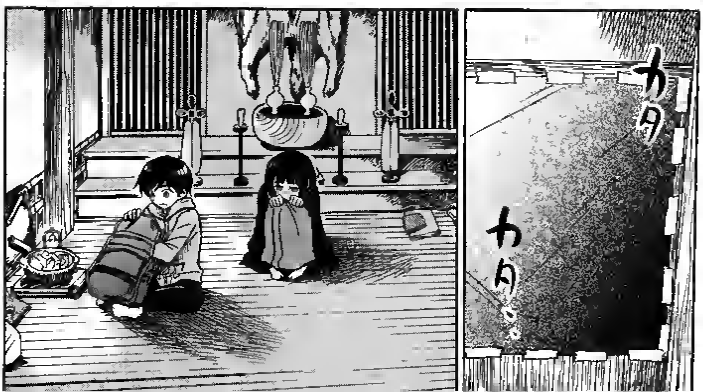
WE'RE TRAPPED!

WHAT?! YOU DIDN'T CHECK THE FORECAST?!
I DID! ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THE 3RD!
THEN WHY...
I TOLD YOU I DON'T KNOW!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS KEEP GOING STRAIGHT FORWARD
LET'S HURRY!
I'LL FOLLOW YOU DOWN!!
YEAH!
.....

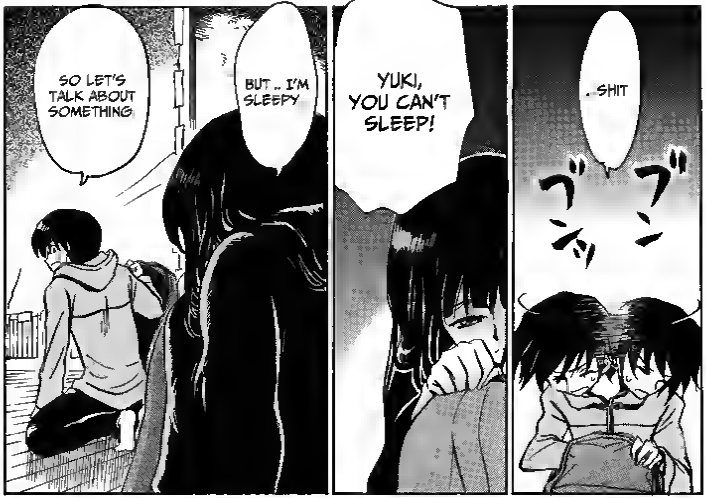
SANAE!
B-
BUT...
A BLIZZARD LIKE THIS...
YUKI AND MASAKI WILL BE TRAPPED!!
AND-
AND I...
I CAME UP WITH THIS STRATEGY...

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
WE PROMISED TO DO THIS AGAIN NEXT YEAR, TOO!
IF--
IF IT'S MY FAULT
THOSE TWO
D-
DIE, THEN...

IF YOU THINK IT'S TOO FAR, THEN WE'LL HOLD HANDS.
ANYWAY, WE HAVE TO HURRY.
IT'S SIMPLE.
HOLD MY HAND.
AND WE'LL RUN.
THE FASTER WE ARE, THE FASTER WE CAN GET HELP.
LET'S HURRY.
...OKAY.
ぎゅっ


カタ
カタ

うと
SOMETHING TO BURN...!
YUKI!
YOU CAN'T FALL ASLEEP NOW!
I'M COLD...
I'M ABOUT TO MAKE IT WARMER, OKAY?!
THOUGH I SAID THAT, I DON'T SEE ANYTHING HERE I CAN BURN...
ふらっ
...


..SHIT
ブブブ
YUKI, YOU CAN'T SLEEP!
BUT.. I'M SLEEPY
SO LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING

...WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
PAPER
WHY?
FOR A FIRE
PAPER...
THAT'S RIGHT.
I HAVE SOME PAPER

SANAE WILL PROBABLY BE ANGRY.
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE WE HAVE A CHOICE.
THOSE...
ARE THOSE THE BOOKS SANAE GAVE YOU EARLIER?
ALL RIGHT. I CAN USE THESE.
LET ME SEE.
MASAKI...?
ガサ
ガサ

ばっ
ガサッ
WH- WHAT'S WRONG?
TH-
TH- TH- THESE ARE...!!
WHAT?!
REALLY?!
THESE ARE DIRTY MAGAZINES!!!

...BUT THEY'RE STILL PAPER, RIGHT?
NO... THAT'S NOT IT
THAT'S NOT IT
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL
SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER.
I'M BACK.
IS SOMEONE OVER?
GEEZ, MAKI-CHAN! STOP PLAYING DUMB!
WELCOME BACK, YOU SEX FIEND.
...WHAT'S WITH YOU?

OH, YOU CAN'T PULL THE WOOL OVER MAMI-CHAN'S EYES
THERE MAY ONLY BE FOUR LEGS ON THE FLOOR NOW
BUT NEXT YEAR, THERE WILL BE EIGHT LEGS AND THEY'LL BE CALLING YOU A PRIMEVAL MANY-LIMBED SERPENT OF THE NIGHT
DON'T GO SPOUTING WEIRD NONSENSE LIKE THAT.
HEY THERE!
YO!
WE REALLY GOT TIRED OF WAITING!
YEAH, BUT... THIS IS MY ROOM .. Y'KNOW?
OH WELL, PUT YOUR STUFF OVER THERE
IT'S SO NICE THAT YOU HAVE THIS ELECTRIC RUG
YEAH, YOU HAVE TO BE COURTEOUS TO OTHER PEOPLE'S BUTTOCKS!
IF IT HAD JUST BEEN A FLOOR, I'D BE FREEZING BY NOW
HERE, TOO...

I SHOULD STILL HAVE TIME UNTIL WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET, SO...
YEAH! BUT THIS YEAR WILL BE YOUR FIRST TIME JOINING US SO WHAT BETTER ESCORT COULD YOU WANT THAN TWO BEAUTIFUL GIRLS, RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT? GOT WHAT YOU NEED?
THEN WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
LET'S GOOOO!
I DIDN'T HAVE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST WORRY...
"NO WAY," I THOUGHT...
AFTER ALL, I DIDN'T KEEP THEM IN MY ROOM...
MY BELOVED BOOK, "PLEASE DON'T STRIP OFF MY KIMONO",
WAS HIDDEN DEEP IN A STORAGE LOCKER...
NO ONE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WHERE TO FIND IT...

I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT...
BUT FOR IT TO BE HERE...
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT...!!!
Shows
Shows
Finds
を脱がさないで
vol.1
パラ
美香
Th- th- th- Th- th- th-
This is...?!
This is...?!
Ah...
ぱしっ
ぱしっ

パラ
YUKI, CALM DOWN!
I-I don't even know what this is, but I know it's unclean!
Th- this is unclean!
ばしっ
ばしっ
ばしっ
ばしっ
着物
YOU'RE READING THIS EVEN THOUGH I'M RIGHT HERE?!
AH... THIS IS MY FAVORITE PAGE.
THE EYES HERE REALLY LOOK LIKE YUKI'S.
...EH?
CRAP.

SO THIS... LOOKS LIKE ME...?
YEAH
I SEE...
.....
...YEAH, I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY UNCLEAN.
I'M QUITE DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.
WELL, THIS IS A BOOK WHICH SHOWS YOU HOW TO MAKE A BABY LIKE YOU KEEP GOING ON ABOUT.
ぺら

はっ
着物を脱がさないで
パラ
パラ
パラ
着物を脱がさないで vol.1
どんだけ
パタン
……

すぃっ
OH THAT'S WHAT IT IS?
--- SHIT ---
WE SHALL DO THIS.
……
ばっ
んっ
Yuki, what are...
H-hey...

WE'RE ABOUT TO FREEZE TO DEATH!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT!
THIS WOMAN STOOD IN MY STEAD, CORRECT?
BUT I AM HERE NOW.
ぱっ
THINK ABOUT WHERE WE...
ゴクッ
THIS FASTENER HERE.
UNFASTEN THIS, AND THE REST WILL BE SIMPLE...

.....
HEY...

はっ
たっ
ガタ
ガタ
...
YUKI...?

...SO FRUS-TRATING
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HERE
MY BODY WON'T MOVE...
……
ガタ
ガタ
ビュオ
オ
オ
オ

YUKI, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE
THERE'S A BLIZZARD OUT THERE
HOW...
.....
NO...
MASAKI..
YOU CAN'T!

...I HEARDJA.
SO YOU CALLED FOR ME, EH, MASAKI?

収穫の十二月

Harvest December

CHAPTER 11 - HARVEST TIME

I FIND YOU GETTIN' CLOSE IN MY HOME.
ガラ
ガラ
ガーッ
AND YET AGAIN...
ガッ
YA HUMANS JUST DON'T HAVE ANY FEAR, DO YA?
……

WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
!!
SHIROU

AH
YUKI!

I WAS GONNA KEEP MY PROMISE WITH KOUHEI.
I WAS GONNA SPEND ALL DAY QUIETLY IN THE CITY EATING ICE CREAM AND SO FORTH.
BUT YA CALLED ME, MASAKI. SO I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE.

RIGHT NOW, THE WHOLE VILLAGE IS OUT SCOURIN' THE MOUNTAIN FER YA.
THEY SHOULD MAKE IT HERE BY DAWN.
...DAWN...
YUKI WON'T LAST THAT LONG.
IS THAT SO?

SHIRO-SAMA.
PLEASE SAVE US.
SURE.
MASAKI...
BUT I'LL BE TAKIN' SOME COMPENSATION.
...COM-PENSA-TION?

YA'LL BE DONE WITH THAT WOMAN.
AND ONLY I WILL REMAIN BY YOUR SIDE.
THAT'S THE PRICE OF A LIFE.
...BUT UNLIKE YOU, I MAY DIE SOON.
THAT'S FINE WITH YOU?
AYE, YER LIFE MIGHT NOT SPAN MORE THAN A FEW DECADES AT MOST.
JUST FOR THE MOMENT,
IT'LL BE FINE IF YOU COMPENSATE FOR WHAT I LACK.
..WHAT YOU LACK?

LOVE.
IN RETURN, I WILL MAKE YA INTO A GOD OF THE MOUNTAIN, IMMORTAL LIKE ME.
FIRST, YA'LL HOLD ME BEFORE THAT WOMAN'S EYES.
NAY, NOT UNTIL YA BECOME MINE.
UNTIL THE SIGHT OF US IS ETCHED IN HER MIND.
BUT BEFORE THAT, YOU HAVE TO SAVE YUKI
I UNDER-STAND
.....

THIS IS THE SACRIFICE.
A GOD IN HUMAN FORM MUST BE KILLED
BEFORE IT LOSES POWER.
ON THE VERGE OF DEATH, THIS REMAINING POWER WILL TRANSFER TO THE NEW GOD.
THIS POWER AND DOMINION WILL BE YERS, MASAKI.

THIS IS MY TRUE NATURE AS GOD OF THE HARVEST.
TO KILL,
TO STEAL,
AND THUS YIELD THE HARVEST ANEW.
I HAVE WARMED THIS TEMPLE FER YA, WOMAN.
BUT WAIT FER HELP AND YA'LL SURVIVE.
I'LL STEAL YA FROM HER MASAKI
AND WE'LL CRUSH HER SPIRIT.
AND IN KILLING A GOD...

I'LL REAP MY HARVEST.

MASAKI.

A LIFE GIVEN LIKE THAT IS WORTHLESS!
WAIT THERE QUIETLY
SO YER FINALLY STANDING UP.
GIRL,
YA WILL BE KILLED.
BUT I'M GIVIN' YA YER LIFE.
...SHIRO,
YOU DON'T LOVE MASAKI AT ALL.

I WOULD SAY THE SAME TO YA!

CHANGE HIM?
WHAT ARE YA SAYIN'?
BUT I CAN CHANGE HIM!
..YOU'RE RIGHT
ふぅ
WHAT DO YA THINK YOU ARE?!
I HAVE THE POWER OF A GOD!
WHAT IS IT YA THINK YA HAVE?!
IN YER MOMEN-TARY LIFE,
I HAVE TIME ETERNAL.
EVERY-THING IS LIMITED!
NOTHING

IF YOU DIE, THAT'S IT.
YUKI
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING FROM YOU!
IF I CHOOSE SHIRO,
THEN WE WON'T FREEZE TO DEATH
THAT'S THE BEST CASE SCENARIO.
NOT AT ALL.
BEST CASE?
THAT'S JUST REALISTIC.
YOU'RE CHOOSING SOMETHING YOU HATE SO MUCH.

HOW IS BECOMING A GOD REALISTIC?
YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT POWER AND TIME ARE WORTH.
AND YOU VALUE NEITHER, MASAKI.
...THAT'S WHY I SHOULD CHOOSE SHIRO
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M ATTRACTED TO UNREALISTIC THINGS.

BUT THEN, WHAT IS REALISTIC?
MASAKI, YOU'RE ATTRACTED BY SHIRO AS A GOD.
AND I SUPPOSE THAT'S ELEGANT ENOUGH IN ITSELF.
AND I SUPPOSE THAT'S REASON ENOUGH FOR YOU TO GIVE IN.
カラン
AND THAT'S WHY YOU OBEY HER, MASAKI.

YOU'RE INSUFFERABLY WEAK.
AND THAT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE CHANGED.
THAT'S JUST THE WAY YOU WERE MADE.
...THAT'S RIGHT.
WHEN DID I BECOME SO WEAK?
SO WILLING TO KNEEL DOWN BEFORE STRENGTH?
!
THAT'S WHY I...
WILL STEAL YOU AWAY FROM THAT GOD!!

WHA...
WHEN WAS SHE SUCH A STRONG PERSON?
MOMENT BY MOMENT IN HER FLEETING LIFE,
EXERTING THE WHOLE OF HER WILL.

SHE CANNOT COMPARE TO THE POWER OR TIMELESSNESS OF A GOD.
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HISTORY, HER EXISTENCE IS NOTHING.
YET RIGHT NOW... THIS GIRL...

IS
OVERWHELMING
A GOD.

収穫の十二月

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DYING
WOULD BE
FINE...

SHE
STOLE ME
FROM ONE
WHO
SOUGHT HER
ANNIHILATION.

CHAPTER 12 – AFTER THE FESTIVAL

BUT
MASAKI,
.....
YOU KNOW WE'LL DIE, RIGHT?
LET'S FIGHT.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
!
MASAKI ...?!
YA CAN'T...
HAVE YOU LOST YER MIND?!
AND CARRYIN' HER ON YER BACK ALL THE WAY DOWN?!
GOIN' OUT IN THIS BLIZZARD

I KNOW IT MIGHT NOT BE THE WISEST MOVE.
—I WON'T SAVE YA.
BUT I'M GOING.
RUNNING OUT LIKE THIS,
I DON'T CARE ANY-MORE!
I DON'T CARE IF YA LIVE OR DIE!!
I DON'T CARE IF YA FREEZE TO DEATH!
...REALLY, MASAKI?!

'CAUSE I WILL!
'CAUSE I REALLY AM GOIN' TO LET YA DIE OUT THERE!!

DIE ALREADY.
THEY CAN BOTH DIE,
THOSE STUPID IDIOTS...
WHY IS IT...
MASAKI...
I LOVE YOU...
FOR WHAT...?
THAT HUMANS WILL LET THEMSELVES END UP IN SUCH A HOPELESS SITUATION?

MY...
LOVE FOR YOU...
...YUKI,
AREN'T YOU COLD?
BUT YOU'RE WARM...

MASAKI,
TELL ME ONE THING.
DO YOU LOVE ME?
IF I ANSWER YOU
IT FEELS LIKE I MIGHT JUST BE RUNNING MY MOUTH.
BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO ASK AGAIN.
IF YOU DON'T ANSWER, I'LL...
I SEE
I'VE GOTTEN WEAK.
MASAKI!
MASAKI?
MASAKI

MASA-KI..
MMMH-MMM ..
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT...

SO YA SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME?
どすっ
WHAT A CUNNING MAN YA ARE...
...HEY!
OVER THERE...!

AND YOUR FAVORITE ADULT BOOK?
...“PLEASE DON’T STRIP OFF MY KIMONO”.
WELL, IT SEEMS YOU’VE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS
Although such a preference is...
...HMPH

YOU WERE PRETTY WEAK WHEN THE SEARCH PARTY FOUND YOU.
WE'LL KEEP YOU OVERNIGHT FOR OBSERVATION
BUT YOU SEEM FINE NOW
IF NO OTHER SYMPTOMS PRESENT BY TOMORROW, YOU'LL BE RELEASED.
TOWADA...
THAT'S RIGHT! YUKI...!

UWAAAH?!
I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
WE'RE ON OUR HANDS AND KNEES!
CAN YOU FEEL OUR SINCERITY, MASAKI??
OUR MOST DEVOUT PLEAS!
I-I-I get it already!
C-cut it out!
I'm begging you!!
BUT MAN, I'M RELIEVED TO SEE YOU'RE OKAY.
...JUST SAY THAT FROM THE BEGINNING.

HEY. SO, Y'KNOW, KOUHEI WAS OUT ALL NIGHT SEARCHING FOR YOU.
YEAH!
WHY DIDN'T YOU GUYS JUST WAIT IN THE TEMPLE FOR HELP?
WELL.. THIS AND THAT..
..BUT HOW'S YUKI?
SHE'S REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AND ALREADY SEEN A DOCTOR
THEY'RE ONLY ALLOWING FAMILY TO SEE HER.
BUT FOR YOU THEY MIGHT MAKE AN EXCEPTION.
.....
I'LL BE BACK
IF YOU GET PERMISSION, LET US KNOW, TOO.
OH...
BY THE WAY...

EEEEK!
HA?
SANAE, WHEN WAS IT THAT YOU STARTED CALLING KOUHEI BY HIS FIRST NAME?
どんっ
どんっ
どんっ
EEEEK!! EEEEK!!
WH-
WHAT THE...?!
ばたんっ
はーっ
...I MEAN, IT'S FINE TO JUST CALL ME KOUHEI...
WHAT WAS THAT...?
.....

O-HOOO!
MASAKI-CHAN, YOU'RE UP!
MAMI-CHAN WAS SUUUU-PER WORRIED ABOUTCHA!
LIAR.
ARE YOU COMFORTABLE IN OUR BEDS?
...I'M MORE OF A FAN OF THE MATTRESS BACK AT HOME.
MY, HOW MODEST.
UM...
ABOUT THE HOSPITAL FEE...

NO WORRIES!!
EVEN IF IT'S A CENTURY OF DEBT, MAMI-CHAN WILL FIND A WAY OUT!
BUT REALLY, YOU'VE ALREADY ACCRUED ONE YEAR OF DEBT.
. I'LL FIND A PART-TIME JOB

OH, THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT I WOULD TAKE MONEY FROM THE PERSON WHO SAVED YUKI'S LIFE?
IT ISN'T A MATTER CHILDREN SHOULD CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH
BESIDES.. YOU WILL BE FAMILY SOON ENOUGH
UGH
SO... SO...
IN CONSIDERATION OF MASAKI-CHAN... COULD WE PRETEND THIS DEBT NEVER

ADULTS WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
DEMON WOMAN!
IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO SEE YUKI?

カラ
SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU ALL MORNING.

MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT CITY DWELLERS ARE A BIT STURDIER?
カタンッ
YOU LOOK WELL.
AREN'T THESE DAYS AFTER NEW YEAR'S SUPPOSED TO BE RELAXING?
ALIVE, AREN'T WE?
WE'RE
YEAH...

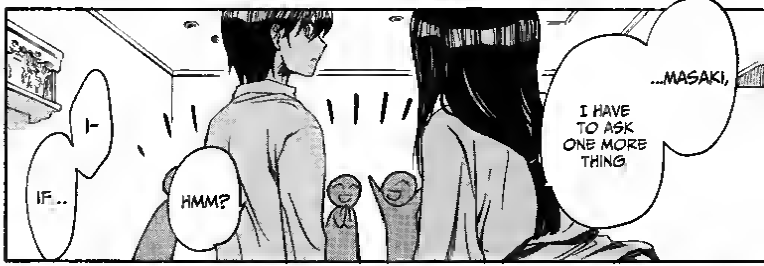
...MASAKI,
THIS TIME YOU HAVE TO ANSWER.
DO YOU...
DO YOU LOVE ME?
.....
.....
It looks like he didn't say anything.
Hey, don't push!
This is so annoying...

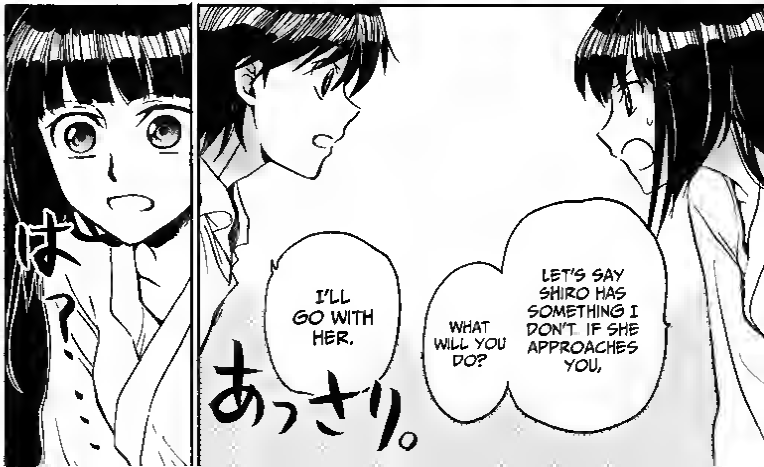
WOAH.
THERE'S A LITTLE GREEN ALIEN DOWN BY MY FOOT.
WHAT?!
WHERE?
ちゅっ

Y'KNOW, I'M ALWAYS GETTING STOLEN.
BUT SOMETIMES I WANT TO PUT UP A LITTLE RESISTANCE TOO.

UWAAAAH!
I SAW IT! I SAW IT!
MAMI-CHAN SAW EEEV-ERYTHING!
SOOOOO SWEEEEET!
WH-
WH-WH-WH-
WH-
WHEN DID YOU...

わいわい
わいわい
I FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST SEEN A MIRACLE
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT MASAKI WOULD MAKE A MOVE.
YUUKI! CONGRATS!
So Sweet...
OH MY. FINALLY IN THE MOOD TO TAKE YUKI AS YOUR WIFE
..YOU GUYS SHOULDN'T JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT...
キャッキャッ


...MASAKI,
I HAVE TO ASK ONE MORE THING
HMM?
I-IF...


LET'S SAY SHIRO HAS SOMETHING I DON'T. IF SHE APPROACHES YOU,
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
I'LL GO WITH HER.
あっさり。
は?

I HEARD THAT!!
はいっ！
THIS TIME I DEFINITELY WON'T LOSE!!
どオーン！
JUST WATCH, MASAKI!
THIS TIME I'LL BEAT HER DOWN.
AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU'RE REALLY WORTH!

MASAKI!
YOU CHOSE ME, DIDN'T YOU!? SO LET GO OF THAT HAND!
がしっ
ぎゃい
……
ぎゃい
I'M ATTRACTED TO UNREALISTIC THINGS.
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN..
REALITY IS ALWAYS SO STERN, SO UNYIELDING.
MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME!

AND I HAVE FRIENDS.
MY REALITY IS RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.
AND I HAVE SHIRO.
BUT I HAVE YUKI.
WHETHER IT'S GOOD... WHETHER IT'S BAD...
THERE'S ONE THING I DO KNOW.
ぷっ

「収穫の十二月」おわり

Thank you very much for purchasing volume 2!!

My gratitude.

The serialized version of Harvest December will end with this second tankobon. During the past year of its run, so many people have helped me along the way. I am grateful from the bottom of my heart to all of you who have purchased these tankobon.

November 16th, 2011. Miura Jun.